GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3786
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN BROADCASTING
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is concerned over the moves by several political parties, State Governments and other entities to foray into broadcasting space/cable TV business in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has ventured into distribution of cable TV and floated a State-owned multi-system operation unit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether TRAI has held that the broadcast space sector should purely be the domain of private telecom operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINITRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Government has requested Telecom Regulatory Authority of India(TRAI) to submit its recommendations on the issue. As required under the TRAI Act, the issue has been put in public domain by way of a Consultation Paper by TRAI.

(b) & (c) In Tamil Nadu,a Public Sector unit M/s Arasu Cable TV Corporation has registered itself as a Cable Operator for working as Multi-System Operator to provide cable services.

(d) & (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.